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Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors

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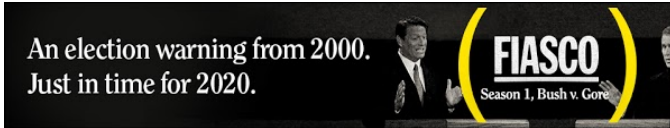
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12-14-2019, 03:13 PM

#1

Zeebins

Advanced Member

00000000



Join Date: Jun 2017

Location: Massachusetts

Posts: 865

[Zeebins's Photos](#)

1997 SL2

Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors

I've been slowly working at this project since September but I've finally wired up power mirrors in a Saturn that didn't come with them. I wanted OE power mirrors but I didn't want to lose the storage spot in the center console. I don't have power locks either and the power mirror switch happens to fit perfectly in their spot on the door handle. Kind of.



The mirror buttons fit just about perfectly in the space for the door locks. The plastic housing was too big however. Luckily, the board the buttons sit on doesn't take up all the extra space. I trimmed the plastic as much as I could without hitting the board on either side. I cut pretty much everything off the power lock trim as well except for the boarder and the tabs that hold it in. (I forgot to take a pic of it after...)



I covered up the top and bottom with some spare plastic and held everything together with a lot of JB Weld. . It took a lot of sanding after to get it all to fit in the door handle. I could paint it all black, but it looks normal from the outside, so I'm not worried about it.



I ended up pulling the wiring I needed out of a 3rd gen so that I could have power mirrors on both sides. 1st and 2nd gens only have power passenger mirrors. Running all the wires through the door tube took a while to figure out and I didn't want to try and take off the door panel, so the tube was pretty hard to get off. Since the switch was now on the door rather than the center console, half the wires had to be extended, and half of them had to be shortened. That part was pretty easy though. I didn't want to have to take apart the factory fuse box, or figure out how to properly add the mirrors to it so I added them on to my auxiliary fuse box from my power outlet project. I added another relay to so that the mirrors only work with the key set to run. The wiring looks messy (and it kinda is...) but it fits behind the drivers side kick panel and I've never had a problem with it while driving.



I took a short video of it working. I'm surprised the buttons didn't break with how many times I had it taken apart.

https://youtu.be/C_frQziwqaU

I'm planning on getting a remote starter soon, so that will probably be the next electrical project for the Saturn 😊

...

97 SL2, auto, 117K miles
Powered by Plastic

REWARD EXCELLENCE!

 Rate the quality of this post and help *Zeebins* reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!

 quote  

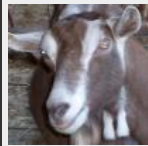
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12-14-2019, 10:27 PM

#2

toggenburg

Master Member



Join Date: Apr 2010
Location: Beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Bedford, Virginia.
Born once? Die twice. -----
Born twice? Die once.
Posts: 3,200

2001 SL1

**Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors**

Way to go, got it done !!!
Great thought, planning and perseverance. 

REWARD EXCELLENCE!

 Rate the quality of this post and help *toggenburg* reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!

 quote  

12-15-2019, 02:21 AM

#3

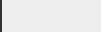
98_Gold_Uranus

Member



Join Date: Jun 2019
Location: Lake City Florida
Posts: 170

1998 SL2

**Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors**

Very cool!

I've been wanting to put a power mirror on my driver's side in my 98 SL2 somehow eventually... Have always thought it was dumb that the passenger side is power but the driver's side is manual with the little nipple sticking out of the door to move it lol.

...
98 SL2, 70k miles, kept in the family since new!

Her name is Uranus :)

REWARD EXCELLENCE!

 Rate the quality of this post and help *98_Gold_Uranus* reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!

 quote  

12-15-2019, 02:51 AM

#4

Waix191

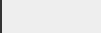
Master Member



Join Date: Oct 2016
Location: Poplar Grove, IL
Posts: 2,268

1999 SL2

1998 SC2

**Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors**

Quote:

Originally Posted by **98_Gold_Uranus** 
Have always thought it was dumb that the passenger side is power but the driver's side is manual with the little nipple sticking out of the door to move it lol.

I prefer the nipple. One less electrical doodad to fail. Would be hard to reach cross cockpit to get the passenger side though. I like the design!

...
Bryan Cotton
'99 SL2, 5SP bought new
Rebuilt at 204,067 September 2017
Engine, subframe, diff pin mod, brake lines, headliner, alternator, and so on!
'98 SC2, 5SP bought 2018

REWARD EXCELLENCE!

 Rate the quality of this post and help *Waix191* reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!

12-15-2019, 06:52 AM 454cid Member Join Date: May 2019 Posts: 314 1999 SL2 1998 SC2	Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors Many years ago, when I was a kid, I seem to remember a car that had a little joystick for the mirrors, and I believe it was all mechanical. I'm thinking maybe a pair of cables. I don't recall if each front door had one, or if the passenger door mirror control was centrally located. It may have been my grandparents 78/79 Olds Delta 88. My grandmother's 84 Buick LeSabre may have had something like that too, but I think that was electric. ... 2000 SL2 Automatic (back on the road) 17X,XXX miles. 1999 Chevy K3500 REWARD EXCELLENCE! Rate the quality of this post and help 454cid reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!
12-15-2019, 08:12 AM Waix191 Master Member Join Date: Oct 2016 Location: Poplar Grove, IL Posts: 2,268 1999 SL2 1998 SC2	Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors Slightly off topic, but I used to tow gliders with a Piper Pawnee ag plane. It had a mirror so you could keep an eye on the glider. I had picked up a mechanical remote control mirror and wanted to put it on. Would have been a great setup. ... Bryan Cotton '99 SL2, 5SP bought new Rebuilt at 204,067 September 2017 Engine, subframe, diff pin mod, brake lines, headliner, alternator, and so on! '98 SC2, 5SP bought 2018 REWARD EXCELLENCE! Rate the quality of this post and help Waix191 reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!
12-15-2019, 01:12 PM fdryer Super Member Join Date: Jan 2006 Location: NYC Posts: 43,471 2003 L-Series 3.0L Sedan	Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors ^ I've seen snapshots of fighter jets with curved mirrors inside canopies but never seen or know of rear view mirrors on airplanes until now. It's amusing yet practical when towing gliders to be able to look back. With all the aerodynamics airplanes have, an outside(?) rear view mirror is an oddity that brings a smile. Seriously now, is it mounted outside and bullet, rectangular F1 or broad flat plate truck style? 😊 REWARD EXCELLENCE! Rate the quality of this post and help fdryer reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!
12-15-2019, 01:36 PM Waix191 Master Member Join Date: Oct 2016 Location: Poplar Grove, IL Posts: 2,268 1999 SL2 1998 SC2	Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors On a Pawnee, aerodynamics is not much of a consideration. The super cub would have a mirror inside to look back through the skylight. ... Bryan Cotton '99 SL2, 5SP bought new Rebuilt at 204,067 September 2017 Engine, subframe, diff pin mod, brake lines, headliner, alternator, and so on! '98 SC2, 5SP bought 2018 REWARD EXCELLENCE! Rate the quality of this post and help Waix191 reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!
12-15-2019, 01:50 PM fdryer Super Member	Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors Yes, a Pawnee airplane version of a John Deere tractor with wings..... aerodynamics an afterthought to deliver chemicals, a bomber for farm crops. Ugly like the A-10 Warthog yet beautiful for its designed purpose. REWARD EXCELLENCE!

 Join Date: Jan 2006 Location: NYC Posts: 43,471 fdryer's Photos  2003 L-Series 3.0L Sedan   	 Rate the quality of this post and help fdryer reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!  quote  
12-15-2019, 07:46 PM 98_Gold_Uranus Member   Join Date: Jun 2019 Location: Lake City Florida Posts: 170 1998 SL2   	 Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors Quote: Originally Posted by Waix191  <i>I prefer the nipple. One less electrical doodad to fail. Would be hard to reach cross cockpit to get the passenger side though. I like the design!</i> I suppose having the adjustment nipple/knob is better than having to roll the window down and push the mirror into position by hand... ... 98 SL2, 70k miles, kept in the family since new! Her name is Uranus :) REWARD EXCELLENCE!  Rate the quality of this post and help 98_Gold_Uranus reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!  quote  
12-15-2019, 09:25 PM Zeebins Advanced Member   Join Date: Jun 2017 Location: Massachusetts Posts: 865 Zeebins's Photos  1997 SL2   	 Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors Positioning the mirrors by hand is honestly easier than using the stick to adjust them. The driver side one is 3 inches away from the mirror itself and the passenger side doesn't even have one... ... 97 SL2, auto, 117K miles Powered by Plastic REWARD EXCELLENCE!  Rate the quality of this post and help Zeebins reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!  quote  
12-15-2019, 10:59 PM SlayZombi Member  Join Date: Nov 2018 Posts: 157 2001 SL   	 Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors You know, my '01 doesn't have power mirrors yet my '82 ZX does.... who would've thought? I don't typically change my mirrors a lot as I'm the only driver so manual are a-ok with me! REWARD EXCELLENCE!  Rate the quality of this post and help SlayZombi reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!  quote  
12-16-2019, 07:28 AM Waix191 Master Member   Join Date: Oct 2016 Location: Poplar Grove, IL Posts: 2,268 1999 SL2 1998 SC2	 Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors Quote: Originally Posted by Zeebins  <i>Positioning the mirrors by hand is honestly easier than using the stick to adjust them. The driver side one is 3 inches away from the mirror itself and the passenger side doesn't even have one...</i> If you take the mirror out and lube up the cable mechanism, it will work a lot better. Take out any bee nests you find as they tend to jam the mirror as well. ... Bryan Cotton '99 SL2, 5SP bought new

Rebuilt at 204,067 September 2017
Engine, subframe, diff pin mod, brake lines, headliner, alternator, and so on!
'98 SC2, 5SP bought 2018

REWARD EXCELLENCE!

Rate the quality of this post and help *Waix191* reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!

12-16-2019, 10:53 AM

#14

alordofchaos

Super Member

FUELLY
33.8
MPG

FUELLY
34.0
MPG

Join Date: Jan 2009

Location: Central MI

Posts: 12,837

alordofchaos's Photos

2002 SC2

1998 SL2

Re: Manual mirrors to factory power mirrors

Nice work on the mirrors. I'm impressed!

Quote:

Originally Posted by **fdryer**
^ I've seen snapshots of fighter jets with curved mirrors inside canopies

I vaguely recall reading about Israeli pilots doing that. When they first got F4 Phantoms, apparently they were not impressed with the lack of dogfighting ability and poor rearward vision for the pilot. They fixed it by going to the FLAPS, and buying some car rearview mirrors and sticking them inside the windcreens.

...

I'm not worthy to grovel in the shadow of Signmaster's wisdom

11/2016 red 2002 5 spd SC2 151k DD
7/2010 Craigslist white 1997 SC2 project
12/2008 eBay silver 1998 SL2 5 spd 102k, now 201k+ miles

REWARD EXCELLENCE!

Rate the quality of this post and help *alordofchaos* reputation points. Click the reputation button near the bottom left corner of this message box. Thank you!

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[Zeebins](#)

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